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Dewan's reply.—The member's suggestion is noted.

71. *Reclamation in the Vembanad lake.*

Mr. N. Madhavan Karthavu (Member, Shertallai Taluk) proposed that the Government order prohibiting reclamation from the Vembanad lake be cancelled. He also said that his special grievance related to the prohibition of reclamation even in places which were beyond tidal action.

Mr. C. J. Kurien (Member, Kottayam Taluk) supported the member.

Dewan's reply.—The matter of the Vembanad lake is under correspondence between His Highness' Government and the Madras Government.

In regard to the non-disposal of applications for permission to reclaim the backwater in unobjectionable places, complained of by Mr. Madhavan Karthavu, Government cannot pass a general order on the member's bare statement. If the member sends up a list of the applications made and pending disposal, an enquiry will be made.

72. *Agricultural banks and model demonstration farms.*

Mr. M. Madhavan Tampi (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) urged the establishment of agricultural banks for helping the ryots, and model demonstration farms for instructing them in agriculture.

73. *Establishment of grain banks.*

Mr. K. G. Parameswara Menon (Member, Changanacheri Taluk) represented the necessity for establishing grain banks for assisting the small farmers and the petty landholders in the cultivation of their lands and towards the relief of agricultural indebtedness.

74. *Improved methods of agriculture.*

Mr. A. Harihara Iyer (Member, Chirayinkil Taluk) requested that improved methods of agriculture might be introduced. The existing methods were antiquated and should be replaced by new ones calculated to develop agriculture and the income derivable therefrom.

Mr. M. Madhavan Tampi (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) supported the previous member.

75. *Scientific officer for agriculture.*

Mr. F. W. LeFeuvre (Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association) brought forward the question of the appointment of a European scientific officer with some knowledge of mycology and entomology. This would be of great help to the European planters, but it would benefit far more the natives of Travancore, two-thirds of whom depended upon agriculture in one form or another for their means of livelihood. The officer would be able to give useful

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hints to cultivators as to the manures most likely to benefit the various crops and would also be able to advise them in dealing with the cocoanut blight which was threatening to exterminate an industry responsible for over 50 per cent. of the total exports from the State. His Association, he said, further suggested that the office might be worked in conjunction with His Highness the Maha Raja's Botanical gardens and that, in addition to a laboratory in Trivandrum, there might be branches in different parts of the country, one of which being in Peermade, a central place, and, owing to its medium elevation, suitable for the completion of experiments. Three months of the officer's time might be spent in the Hills and, under these conditions, he said that his Association would probably be prepared to assist financially and also suggested the appointment of a Commission to go into the matter thoroughly and formulate some definite scheme for the consideration of Government.

Mr. H. M. Knight (Member, Cardamom Planters' and Rubber Planters' Associations) spoke in support of the request.

76. Maintenance of cattle depots and seed-bulls.

Mr. M. Madhavan Tampi (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) suggested that seed-bulls should be maintained, and cattle depôts for the sale of good breeds should be opened by Government in each Division.

Dewan's reply.—(Subjects 72—76) Government recognise that the methods of agriculture now in vogue probably require improvement and that the ryots are probably suffering from ignorance. But there is no use in starting demonstration farms and organising a staff of Inspectors, till we get some man competent to supervise the whole work, some man who has the requisite training to be the head of a department like that. So, the question of the necessity of having a Scientific officer to assist agriculture in the State, which has been dealt with by Mr. LeFeuvre and Mr. Knight, is the first thing to be taken up. In that connection, I am glad to tell you that one of our young men has recently taken the Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture in the Edinburgh University and he is now continuing his studies at Leipzig in Germany. He has been sent to Europe by the State and the expenses of his education are being borne by the State. We have been receiving reports about him from Edinburgh and they are all extremely favourable. As soon as that young man returns, we shall be in a position to see how far we can utilise his services. But till we get him, Government will not feel justified in launching on any

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